

Message Text

PAGE 01 REYKJA 01449 301745Z

46

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /031 W
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O R 301645Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4152

INFO COMICEDEFOR IMMEDIATE

SECDEF

CINCLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 1449

EXDIS

SPECAT FOR MILITARY ADDRESSEES

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR IC NATO

SUBJECT: IDF RETENTION NEGOTIATIONS: TIMING OF THIRD ROUND

REF: REYKJAVIK 1437 PARA 6 AND IRVING-ANDREWS (EUR/NE) TELECON
NOVEMBER 29

1. I SPOKE BRIEFLY TO FONMIN AGUSTSSON THIS AFTERNOON RE JANUARY VERSUS DECEMBER MEETING, STATING THAT DECISION IS ENTIRELY HIS TO MAKE BUT SINCE DECEMBER IS A MONTH OF PRESSING BUSINESS FOR BOTH SIDES USG PERFECTLY AGREEABLE TO POSTPONEMENT UNTIL JANUARY. I ALSO STATED THAT SINCE HE CHANGED SIGNALS ON US IN NOVEMBER SESSION REGARDING UNAVAILABILITY OF ICELANDIC LABOR WHICH NOW MAKES US LOOK INTO AVAILABILITY OF AMERICAN CIVILIAN ABOR, ANY PROGRESS WE MIGHT HAVE HOPED TO ACHIEVE IN DECEMBER WILL BE SLOWED DOWN. I REMARKED IT MIGHT BE MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS TO SKIP DECEMBER AND PLAN ON A JANUARY SESSION INSTEAD.

2. FONMIN REPLIED HE SPOKE TO PRIME MINISTER ABOUT MATTER AND PRIME MINISTER THOUGHT GOOD IDEA BUT WANTED TO THINK MORE ABOUT IT OVER WEEKEND.

3. I SUGGESTED POSTPONEMENT BE HANDLED IN SIMPLE MANNER, AN
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INFORMAL, UNPUBLICIZED EXCHANGE OF LETTERS WHICH WE WOULD PREPARE TOGETHER AT OUR DEC 3 MEETING. I SUGGESTED ORALLY TO HIM HIS LETTER TO ME MIGHT BE AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: THIS LETTER CONFIRMS OUR CONVERSATION OF THIS DATE.
BECAUSE OF THE PRESS OF BUSINESS IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER ON
BOTH SIDES AND THE COMPLEXITY OF THE PROPOSALS CURRENTLY UNDER
CONSIDERATION CONCERNING THE ICELAND DEFENSE FORCE, IT IS MUTUALLY
ADVANTAGEOUS TO POSTPONE THE DECEMBER 1973 NEGOTIATING SESSION
UNTIL JANUARY 1974. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES IT IS MUTUALLY
UNDERSTOOD THAT THE TECHNICAL SIX MONTH REVIEW PERIOD OF ARTICLE
V11 OF THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT OF 1951 IS AUTOMATICALLY EXTENDED
ONE MONTH TO JANUARY 25, 1974. END QUOTE

4. I SHALL PROCEED ALONG FOREGOING UNLESS I RECEIVE OTHER
GUIDANCE. LETTER CONTENT SHOULD BE INFORMAL AND NOT LEGALISTIC,
OTHERWISE FONMIN MIGHT SHY AWAY FROM IT AND INSIST ON AN ORAL
UNDERSTANDING.

5. REPLY, IF ANY, SHOULD BE SENT IMMEDIATE PRECEDENCE TO
REACH ME NO LATER THAN SUNDAY EVENING DECEMBER 2.

6. REVISED TABLE THREE NOT NEEDED UNTIL DECEMBER 5. IRVING

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 11 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COLLECTIVE SECURITY AGREEMENTS, MILITARY BASES, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: martinjw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973REYKJA01449
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P750034-0602
From: REYKJAVIK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731166/abqceguu.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: REYKJAVIK 1437 PARA 6 AND IRVING-ANDREWS (EUR/NE) TELECON NOVEMBER 29
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Sep-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <20 FEB 2002 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IDF RETENTION NEGOTIATIONS: TIMING OF THIRD ROUND
TAGS: MARR, IC, NATO, IDF
To: STATE INFO COMICEDEFOR
SECDEF
CINCLANT
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005